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PROBLEMS IN INCREASING SOVIET PRODUCTION OF MILLED PEAT

Workers in enterprises of the Leningrad Peat Trust have pledged an increase in peat output and labor productivity, a decrease in production costs, and a saving in electric power. The Orekhovo-Zuyevskiy and Shatura peat trusts have also made pledges as follows: to extract 200,000 tons of peat above plan; to lower production costs of peat 1.4 percent below the plan; to deliver 3.2 million rubles of accumulations above the plan; to spread competition to save raw materials, other materials, fuel, and electric power; to increase labor productivity in every way.

During 1951, peat enterprises have received considerable funds for preparing new fields, for peat-extracting and gathering machines, and for new housing. The 1951 plan calls for an increase in the mechanized gathering of milled peat to 87.7 percent, as against 63.2 percent for 1950. Thirty-five enterprises of Glavtorf of the Ministry of Electric Power Stations have converted all phases of the production of milled peat to all-around mechanization.

In 1950, the plan for milled peat output was completed only 75.9 percent by Glavtorf. The Collegium of the Ministry of Electric Power Stations criticized sharply the unsatisfactory work of Glavtorf, the individual peat trusts and enterprises, and planned concrete measures to assure the fulfillment of the 1951 plan.

The production of milled peat is proceeding more successfully during the present season than in 1950. By 20 June, the calendar plan was fulfilled 103.7 percent. In the front ranks were the Orekhovo Peat Trust with 118.4 percent, the Shatura Peat Trust with 113.4 percent, and the Kalinin Peat Trust with 112.5 percent. The Bryansk, Pal'tso, imeni Klasson, and Berendeyevo peat enterprises completed the season plan in July.

However, the production of milled peat is proceeding unsatisfactorily in a number of enterprises. The most backward of these are the Chisto-Borskiy which has fulfilled the calendar plan only 78.2 percent, the Shuvalovo with 39.3 percent, the Sinyavino with 47.4 percent, the Pikinskiy with 92.3 percent, the Zenginskiy with 56.1 percent, the Karinskiy with 83.2 percent, the Nez'ya with 56.5 percent, and the Smolevichi with 32.7 percent.

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Although the condition of peat fields has improved in recent years as a result of the mechanization of bog-preparation work, there are still managers of enterprises who underestimate the value of drainage and thorough preparation of the surface of the fields. For example, drainage ditches have not been completely repaired in the Kosmynino, Varegovo, Tesovo I, Tesovo II, and Teykovo enterprises. The opening of the drains was not cleaned out in the Tesovo I Enterprise.

Experience indicates that, when fields and drying networks are maintained in good condition, enterprises have a milled peat output in excess of the plan. By order of D. G. Zhimerin, Minister of Electric Power Stations, peat enterprises are to complete capital repair of 2.9 million cubic meters of the drying network in 1951, including 1.41 million cubic meters in the second quarter. The majority of trusts are exceeding the calendar plan for capital repair of the drying network, but the Kirov and the Gor'kiy trusts have not yet paid enough attention to this problem and they must take measures immediately to eliminate any lags.

During 1951, 7,750 hectares of fields from which milled peat is obtained are to be drained, including 2,750 hectares in the second quarter. To complete this task, enterprises have been equipped with augur-type drainage machines. However, these machines are utilized unsatisfactorily in some enterprises. Thus, in the Reshetnikovskiy Peat Enterprise, where the drainage system is in a state of neglect, the calendar plan for drainage had been completed only 77 percent by 1 July, and the Ozeretsko-Neplyuyevskiy Enterprise had fulfilled the drainage plan only 21 percent by the same date. Other peat enterprises which fell short of their quota for field drainage as of 1 July were the Zenginskiy Peat Enterprise with 22.4 percent, the Orichevskiy Enterprise 34.1 percent, and the Ozeretskiy Enterprise 35.4 percent. Enterprises of the Shatura Peat Trust, except for the Ryazanovskiy, had completed the field drainage plan only 36 to 45 percent by 1 July.

One of the reasons for the lag in milled peat output was the failure of construction and installation administrations of Glavtorfostroy to put new peat fields into operation. The Gortorfostroy Trust and its construction and installation administrations in the Zenginskiy and Chisto-Borskiy peat enterprises had not started operations on a single hectare out of a planned 252 hectares by 17 June, and the Smolevichi construction and installation office had started operations on only 35 hectares of 18.5 percent of the planned 190 hectares by 15 June 1951.

The tempo in preparing peat fields for operations should also be stepped up. The Teykovskiy Peat Enterprise had only prepared 8 hectares of a plan for 45 by 16 June, the Ozeretskiy Enterprise 85 of a plan for 160, and the Orekhovo Enterprise only 64 percent of its quota.

Peat workers must solve the problem of improving the quality of milled peat. This can be done by adhering closely to the technological processes and by setting up storage heaps promptly. Many OF-3 storing machines and PK-2 cranes are available to the peat enterprises, but they are not adequately exploited. Work must be so organized that the peat is piled in storage heaps not later than the day after it has been gathered.

The PUM-Ze pneumatic gathering machine is in operation in the Petrovsko-Kobelevskiy and Osanovo-Dubovo enterprises of the Shatura Peat Trust and in the Ozeretskiy Enterprise of the Kalinin Peat Trust. The UFF-2 gathering machine is being utilized in the Peat Enterprise imeni Klasson of the Orekhovo Peat Trust.

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